

In the Claims

14. (Amended)

A method of identifying a nucleotide sequence which encodes upon expression an expansin protein comprising:
obtaining a cDNA fragment having greater than about 70% sequence similarity to SEQ ID: 1;
using said fragment to identify similar nucleotide sequences suspected to encode a protein with
expansin activity by a hybridization or PCR based assay; and thereafter
assaying the protein encoded by said identified sequence for expansin activity.

B6
15. (Amended)

The method of claim 14 wherein said fragment is a PCR primer.

16. (Amended)

The method of claim 14 wherein said fragment is a hybridization probe.

18 (Amended)

B7
A method of identifying a nucleotide sequence which encodes upon expression an expansin protein comprising:
obtaining a cDNA fragment which encodes an amino acid sequence having greater than about
70% sequence similarity to SEQ ID NOS: 2-6;
using said fragment to identify similar nucleotide sequences through a hybridization or PCR
based assay; and thereafter
assaying the protein encoded by said sequence for expansin activity.

20. (Amended)

B8
A method of identifying a nucleotide sequence which encodes upon expression an expansin protein comprising:
designing a primer to amplify expansin encoding DNA wherein said primer has greater than
about 70% sequence similarity to SEQ ID NO: 2;
amplifying a cDNA fragment from said primer,

screening a cDNA library to identify a full length coding sequence of an expansin protein.
